

October 22, 2008

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Mattole Road, Post Mile 23.7, Storm
Damage Repair
WDID No. 1B08037WNHU

Humboldt County

On May 15, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to replacing the inlet and outlet ends of a damaged culvert under Mattole Road at Post Mile 23.7 and restoring the scoured embankment slopes. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary to the Pacific Ocean in the Mattole River Hydrologic Area No. 112.30.

During heavy rains in late 2005 and early 2006 an existing 24-inch diameter culvert clogged and the culvert and roadway embankments were damaged. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair the existing culvert and restore the embankments. The proposed project involves removing soil from around the inlet and outlet ends of the existing culvert to expose a 6-foot long section of the existing culvert. The end sections of the culvert will be removed and replaced with new 10-foot long end sections. Excavated soil and fill material will be placed around the new culvert end sections to restore the embankments to their pre-storm condition.

Removal and replacement of the inlet and outlet sections of the culvert and placement of embankment fill will result in 40 square feet and 8 linear feet of additional permanent impacts to the ephemeral stream channel. The proposed project will not result in any temporary impacts to the stream channel.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation includes seeding and mulching disturbed areas. Noncompensatory mitigation also includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment near a stream channel. All disturbed areas will be seeded and mulched upon completion of the project. Heavy equipment will be operated from the roadway and all construction activities will take place during the dry season when there will be little or no water in the stream channel.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under nationwide permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The County of Humboldt determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1 – existing facilities, and Section 15304 – minor alterations to land. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and

received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

102208_DLP_humco_mattolerdpm23.7_pubnot.doc